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Legislation

Executive R

5-9081

14 August 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Attorney General

SUBJECT: Legislation to Outlaw the Communist Party in the United States

1. This memorandum is submitted in furtherance of the telephone conversation between yourself and Mr. Allen Dulles on 14 August in reference to the pending Communist Control Act of 1954 (S. 3706). It is our opinion that these views should be brought to your personal attention in view of your responsibility in coordinating opinions and advising the President on legislation of this type.
2. We of course recognize that legislation to outlaw the Communist Party and to deal with Communist infiltration of American labor unions is a domestic matter and, therefore, not within the jurisdiction of CIA. We wish to make it clear that we are not in any position to judge what the domestic impact of such legislation would be, especially regarding its effect upon the discharge of United States internal security responsibilities. For all we are able to judge, these latter considerations may well be paramount.
3. There are overseas implications however, in the field of our security responsibilities, and here we consider that we have a legitimate responsibility and concern. What the United States does domestically affects the attitude of other governments of the free world toward their own Communist Parties, their own Communist-infiltrated trade unions, and other institutions.
4. Here in the United States, the Communist Party has relatively little political influence and no representation in the Congress. In certain countries abroad, to the contrary, such as France and Italy, the Communist Party has such great influence as to pose a constant threat to the orderly processes of parliamentary government.

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5. The fact that the Communist Party in many countries abroad is recognized as legal and hence given "respectability" makes it possible for many respectable elements to support Communist candidates and programs, not realizing, or perhaps allowing themselves to ignore, the fact that the Communist Party leadership takes its orders from Moscow and is party to the international Communist conspiracy. In these countries the Communist apparatus thrives both underground and above ground. Thus the elimination of the open element would remove at least one serious menace. Anything further that we can properly do here to deprive the Communist Party of "respectability" will help our friends overseas in dealing with the very serious Communist problems in their institutions.

C. P. CABELL
Lieutenant General, USAF
Acting Director

cc: The Assistant to
The President (Gov. Sherman Adams)

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